



American Community Survey

Annually, in the fall, the U.S. Bureau of the Census releases its latest results from the ongoing American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is a continuous data-collection effort that obtains a wide range of socioeconomic, housing and demographic characteristics for all communities across the nation. It helps businesses and communities decide where to locate services and allocate resources by telling us what the population looks like and how it lives.

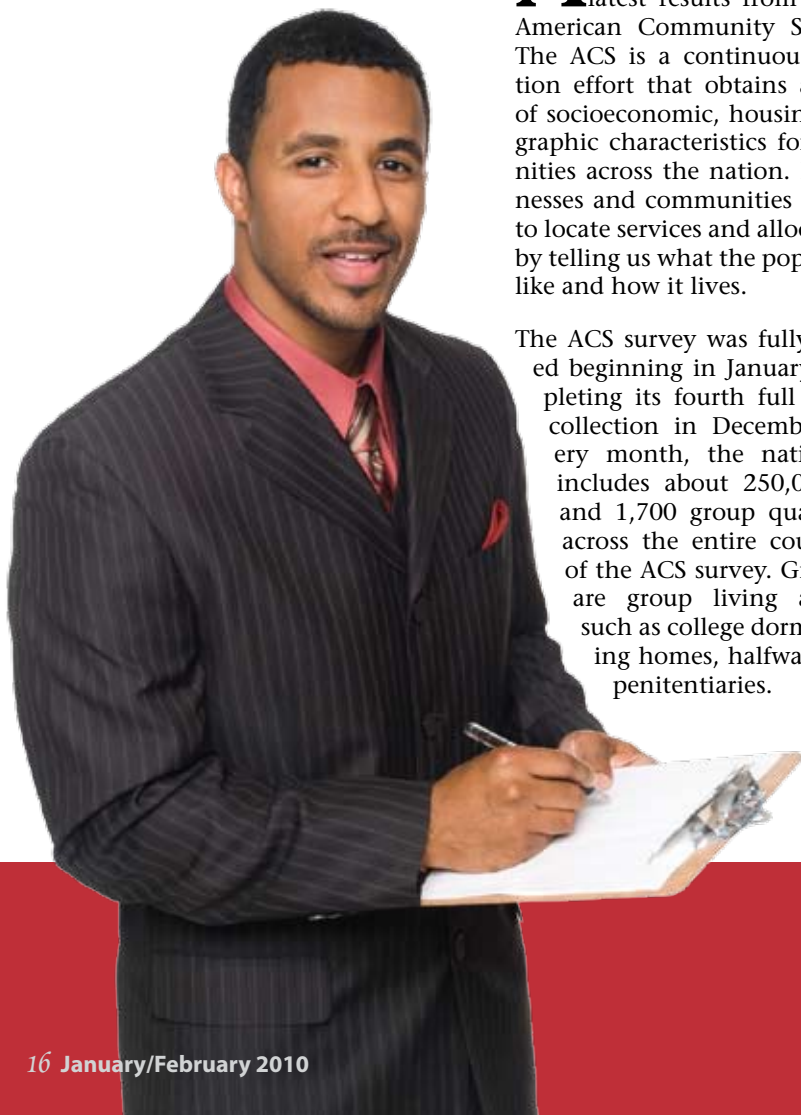
The ACS survey was fully implemented beginning in January 2005, completing its fourth full year of data collection in December 2008. Every month, the national sample includes about 250,000 addresses and 1,700 group quarters, spread across the entire country as part of the ACS survey. Group quarters are group living arrangements such as college dormitories, nursing homes, halfway houses and penitentiaries.

Monthly data is combined over one-, three-, and five-year periods to provide reasonably reliable estimates of population characteristics for communities or other jurisdictions (states, counties, metropolitan areas, congressional districts, Indian reservations, etc.).

ACS data released in the fall of 2009 consisted of the second set of three-year (2006 to 2008) data for areas with populations of 20,000 or more. In Utah, for example, 14 of 29 counties have populations greater than 20,000, enabling estimates of the numerous characteristics of their residents to be released from data collected from January 2006 through December 2008.

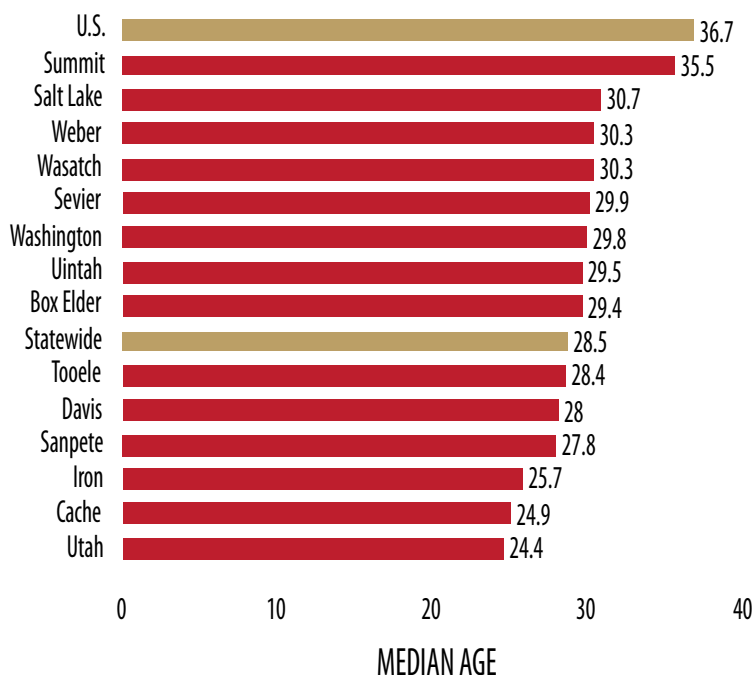
The fourth set of one-year estimates (responses from the 12 months of each calendar year), were provided for areas with relatively large populations of 65,000 or more inhabitants.

The data collection efforts from ACS are completing the fifth year of opera-




Median Age 2006-2008

by County in Utah



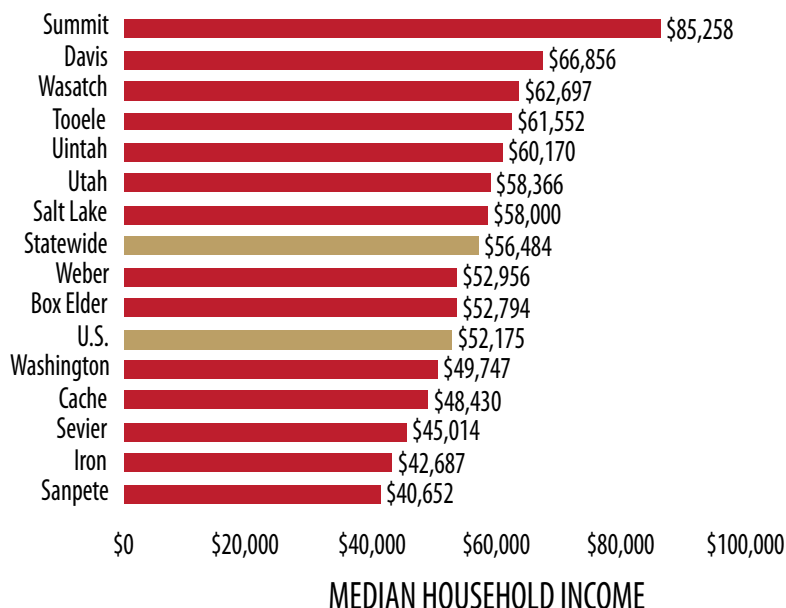
tion in December 2009. Sample survey responses from small communities or jurisdictions with populations of less than 20,000, will be combined over five years to obtain estimates of the full range of survey topics. The first set of ASC five-year results providing a data portrait for all communities, regardless of size, will be released in the fall of 2010.

Each year after 2010, ACS survey data will be combined into the most recent five-, three-, and one-year collections to provide detailed economic, social, demographic, and housing information used by businesses, planners and government officials to make informed decisions. 

To obtain the latest ACS results visit "American Factfinder," the Census Bureau's online data tool: factfinder.census.gov.

Median Household Income

by County in Utah (2008 inflation adjusted dollars)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey.